

Digital Citizenship for Students - Internet Safety Scenarios

Internet safety, personal information protection, and personal conduct online are critical elements of Digital Citizenship. As students spend more time online, they will encounter people and situations that will be difficult to handle. It is important that they consider appropriate, well-reasoned, and self-protecting actions and reactions when they come across these situations.

Instructions: Read each scenario and discuss what actions you would take to respond to or resolve the situation. Please be prepared to share your work with the class.

1. You have a disagreement with one of your teammates at a game and the coach ends up benching her for the remainder of the game. Afterwards, she is so upset that she sends you an angry text (SMS), blaming you for everything. You text back, trying to explain your side of things, but this angers her further and she ends up sending a series of mean text messages, calling you names and even threatening to put you "in your place" if you mess with her at the next game.
2. You begin to receive Snapchats from a user you don't recognize. This person claims to go to your school and seems to know a lot of information about your school and your classes that makes you believe him. After a bit, he begins to ask you questions about you and your friends. However, when you ask for the person's name, he avoids the question.
3. A friend tags you in a picture on Facebook. The picture was taken last summer while you and others were at the beach. You don't feel comfortable with the way you or your friends look in the picture. Other Facebook users have begun to post comments on the picture making fun of you and your friends.
4. You and a group of students have created a website about a classmate. The website includes postings that include made-up stories, jokes and cartoons involving the student. The site also includes a place where visitors can post comments and an email link for people to send their messages directly to the student. You email everyone in your class a link to the site.
5. While doing research on Google you click on a website that takes you to an inappropriate website. When you try to hit the back button, the webpage reappears. After a few moments you try to close the window, but the screen won't close. So, you force quit the program and restart your computer. Once you restart the computer, you notice it is working really slowly and your homepage has changed.
6. You and a friend like to joke on Facebook by insulting each other. Sometimes these insults include references to inappropriate behavior, mocking of classmates, and use of swearing. Even though you have set up your Facebook to keep the conversations private, your friend makes a copy of your chats for her

parents see. Her parents call your school and your parents to tell them what has been happening. By the time you get to school the next day, everyone in your class knows what you have said.

7. A good friend of yours comes to talk to you one day to tell you that one of the older students has recorded a video of her practicing for the school play. The older student edited the video to make your friend look immature and unintelligent and has been showing it to all of his friends. Your friend tells you that she is embarrassed and upset, but has not told anyone about this.
8. While you were in Middle School, you wrote a blog post where you criticized one of your teachers for being mean to you in class. You claim the teacher was not fair in her grading and she insulted you in front of your classmates. Further in the post, you ridicule the teacher's age, race, and physical appearance. Now, you are in university and you are applying for a highly competitive internship. During the interview, the interviewer brings out a copy of the blog post and questions you about it.
9. Your classmate does not have many friends or hobbies. Each day he spends 8-10 hours on online games during the school term and as much as 15 hours during the holidays. He is reluctant to join family activities and unwilling to go to any social activities organized by his friends. He has developed an aloof personality: he is not interested in establishing any relationship with others and has become isolated.